



10. YEAR 1980

1. Summarize the following passage, tracing the main arguments and reducing it about one-third of its present length.

The attention we give to terrorism often seems disproportionate to its real importance. Terrorism incidents make superb copy for journalists, but kill and maim fewer people than road accidents. Nor is terrorism politically effective. Empires rise and fall according to the real determinants of politics -- namely overwhelming force or strong popular support -- not according to a bit of mayhem caused by isolated fanatics whom one would take seriously enough to vote for it. Indeed, the very variety of incidents that might be described as "terrorism" has been such as to lead critics to suggest that no single subject for investigation exists at all. Might we not regard terrorism as a kind of minor blotch on the skin of an industrial civilization whose very heart is filled with violent dreams and aspirations. Who would call in the dermatologist when the heart itself is sick.

But popular opinion takes terrorism very seriously indeed and popular opinion is probably right. For the significance of terrorism lies not only in the grotesque nastiness of terroristic outrages but also in the moral claims they imply. Terrorism is the most dramatic exemplification of the moral fault of blind willfulness. Terrorism is a solipsistic denial of the obligation of self-control we all must recognize when we live in civilized communities.

Certainly the sovereign high road to misunderstanding terrorism is the pseudo-scientific project of attempting to discover its causes. Terrorists themselves talk of the frustrations which have supposedly necessitated their actions but to transform these facile justifications into scientific hypotheses is to succumb to the terrorists own fantasies. To kill and maim people is a choice people make, and glib invocations of necessity are baseless. Other people living in the same situation see no such necessity at all. Hence there are no "causes" of terrorism; only decision to terrorize. It is a moral phenomenon and only a moral discussion can be adequate to it.

2. "Had he and I but met

Terrorism and Lack of self-restraint

Terrorism often receives much importance than required, although it has fewer casualty rates than road accidents. Terrorism is politically toothless as actual politics is determined by popular decision. Such violent acts provide impression that investigation is merely rhetoric. It can be regarded as a spot on the surface of industrial civilization with similar violent ambitions. But, majority holds that terrorism is a serious issue, and it is perhaps, as in addition to outlandish acts, it tends to imply morality. This derives from lack of self-control. It is a willful decision to slaughter people. Some people with similar conditions do not follow the same route. This morality can only be tackled with morality.

Total words: 335

Precis words: 113